

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted under an RCE, which was filed following the final Office Action mailed November 19, 2003, in the present application.

Briefly, in the final Office Action, all of the previously pending claims (Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 19-42, and 51-54) have been finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of several references including Humpleman (U.S. Patent No. 5,940,387), Ketcham (U.S. Patent No. 6,212,206), Budow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,625,864), Ito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,014,693), and Blahut et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,442,389). All of the previously rejected claims have been canceled without prejudice, and new Claims 55-68 have been added. The support for the new claims can be found throughout the original specification as filed. In particular, new Claims 55 and 60 now recite that "when the transmission band allocated to one of the terminal devices requesting the information is limited, the information received from the selector by the transmitter is adjusted to correspond to the limited transmission band and the adjusted information is transmitted to the terminal device, while the information received from the selector by the file I/O controller is unadjusted and stored in the file device." The support for this passage can be found, for example, on page 28, lines 2-21. This aspect of the invention is not taught or suggested by any of the cited references either alone or in combination. Therefore, new Claims 55 and 60 are believed to be allowable. The rest of the claims depend from either Claims 55 or 60, and therefore are also believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons why Claims 55 and 60 are allowable.

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Accordingly, applicants respectfully request an early and favorable action allowing Claims 55-68 and passing the present application for issuance. If the Examiner should have any further issues or questions, he is invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: February 19, 2004

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